

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GUATEM 01053 182110Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15  
ERDA-07 NRC-07 DHA-02 MC-02 SAB-02 /100 W  
-----190643 100730 /22

R 181859Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4890  
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 1053

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, ES, GT, US  
SUBJ: GUATEMALAN VIEWS ON SALVADORAN ELECTIONS

SUMMARY. GUATEMALAN PRESS QUOTES FONMIN MOLINA AS SAYING ANY  
US INVOLVEMENT IN SALVADORAN ELECTIONS WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUC-  
TIVE AND LEADING OPPOSITION PAPER SAYS SALVADORAN APPEALS FOR  
US INTERVENTION COULD BE VERY DANGEROUS. END SUMMARY.

1. GUATEMALA'S LARGEST DAILY, PRESSA LIBRE, CARRIES  
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW FEBRUARY 18 WITH FONMIN ADOLFO MOLINA, IN  
WHICH HE WAS ASKED TO COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER  
HAS A WATCHFUL EYE ON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR  
FEBRUARY 20 IN EL SALVADOR. FONMIN REPORTEDLY SAID ANY  
INTERVENTION, ANY INTERFERENCE OF ANY KIND WOULD BE  
UNDOUBTEDLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FOR GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN US  
AND LATIN AMERICA. WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED "THE BAPTISM OF  
FIRE" FOR CARTER'S LATIN AMERICAN POLICY - THE DECISION AS  
TO HOW TO REACT TO POSSIBLE ELECTORAL FRAUD IN SALVADOR - IS  
IN A WAY DANGEROUS, MOLINA IS QUOTED AS SAYING, BECAUSE IT  
COULD LEAD TO INTERFERENCE IN MATTERS THAT ARE NOT THE CONCERN  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 GUATEM 01053 182110Z

OF US.

2. TURING TO OTHER ASPECTS OF US-LATIN AMERICAN  
RELATIONS, REPORTER ASKED ABOUT SO-CALLED "PATERNALISM"  
OF US AS EXEMPLIFIED IN VETO OF ECUADOREAN PURCHASE OF  
ISRAELI PLANES AND IN OPPOSITION TO BRAZILIAN PURCHASE  
OF NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT. FONMIN SAID CARTER

ADMINISTRATION'S POSITIONS ARE NOT NEW; SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD ALSO OPPOSED BRAZIL-FRG AGREEMENT AND VETO OF ECUADOR SALE UNDOUBTEDLY REFLECTED THE CONCERN OF THE GREAT POWERS OVER THE ARMS RACE IN THE THIRD WORLD. MOLINA MENTIONED APPOINTMENT OF LINOWITZ AS CANAL NEGOTIATOR AS A POSITIVE STEP BY NEW ADMINISTRATION IN LIGHT OF LINOWITZ' EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE OF LATIN AMERICAN PROBLEMS.

3. ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, MOLINA IS QUOTED AS SAYING GUATEMALA HAS NO PROBLEMS WITH US; ON THE CONTRARY, MEAT QUOTA HAS BEEN INCREASED AND THE COFFEE BOYCOTT WAS INEFFECTIVE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT ALLEGATIONS BY GUATEMALANS WHO WERE DEPORTED FROM US AFTER ILLEGALLY ENTERING THAT THEY HAD BEEN MISTREATED BY US AUTHORITIES, MOLINA SAID GUATEMALA VIEWED THESE REPORTS WITH CONCERN, AS THEY APPEARED TO REPRESENT VIOLATIONS OF DEPORTEES' HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. IN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, JORGE CARPIO, EDITOR OF PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER, EL GRAFICO, AND BROTHER OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMAN, RAN SIGNED EDITORIAL FEBRUARY 18 ON SALVADORAN ELECTIONS. AFTER DESCRIBING INTERNAL SITUATION IN SALVADOR, CARPIO SAID THERE IS ANOTHER FACTOR "SHICH DID NOT EXIST IN PREVIOUS ELECTIONS: THE REPEATED DECLARATIONS OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S GOVERNMENT THAT INDICATE HIS ANTI-PATHY FOR GOVERNMENTS CREATED BY COUP D'ETATS. THE CARTERIAN MORALITY VIEWS THE PURITY OF THE ELECTORAL UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 GUATEM 01053 182110Z

PROCESS AS THE FOUNDATION OF THE LEGITIMACY OF GOVERNMENTS....THE RECENT DUARTE-MONDALE MEETING IN WASHINGTON, AND THE FORMER'S REQUEST THAT THE US NOT BACK ILLEGITIMATE GOVERNMENTS, HAVE BEEN SEVERELY CRITICIZED. IT IS SAID THAT (DUARTE) WAS CALLING FOR INTERVENTION AND THIS IN ADDITION TO BEING TRUE, COULD BE VERY DANGEROUS IN THE FUTURE. IT IS TRULY A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD. NEVERTHELESS, THE DETERMINATION OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO WITHDRAW SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENTS COMING TO POWER BY FORCE WAS REACHED PRIOR TO THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES OF LATIN AMERICA (DUARTE) WITH THE AMERICAN VICE PRESIDENT.

5. WASHINGTON HASSAID IT WILL NOT INTERVENE IN THE ELECTIONS IN EL SALVADOR, BUT IT IS A FACT THAT IT WILL OBSERVE THEM WITH GREAT ATTENTION, GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS FIRST ELECTION IN LATIN AMERICA (SINCE CARTER INAUGURATED)....IN SPITE OF THE

REPEATED STATEMENTS OF CARTER, IT IS STILL NOT KNOWN  
WHAT ACTION US COULD TAKE IF THE SALVADORAN ELECTION  
IS NOT AS CLEAN AS MIGHT BE WISHED...WHO IS PRESIDENT,  
CLARAMOUNT OR ROMERO...IS NOT THE CRUCIAL, THE  
IMPORTANT THING. WHAT COUNTS IS THAT POWER BE TURNED  
OVER TO WHOEVER WINS AT THE POLLS...REGARDLESS OF THE  
POLITICAL VIEWS HE MAY HOLD; THAT THE PEOPLE CHOOSE AND  
THAT THAT CHOICE BE RESPECTED. UNQTE.

6. COMMENT: CONSENSUS OF THESE AND OTHER VIEWS  
EXPRESSED IN GUATEMALA THIS WEEK SEEMS TO BE THAT  
WITHDRAWAL OF US "SUPPORT" FOR UNDEMOCRATIC REGIMES  
IS WELCOMED, BUT ANY ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME -  
EVEN TO REVERSE A FRAUDULENT DECISION - WOULD BE A  
REMEDY WORSE THAN THE DISEASE.  
BOSTER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, INTERVENTION, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977GUATEM01053  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770059-0942  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** GUATEMALA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770228/aaaaaypn.tel  
**Line Count:** 131  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 5ba47cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3284080  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GUATEMALAN VIEWS ON SALVADORAN ELECTIONS SUMMARY. GUATEMALAN PRESS QUOTES FONMIN MOLINA AS SAYING ANY US INVOLVEMENT IN SALVADORAN ELECTIONS WOULD B E CO  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ES, GT, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/5ba47cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009